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PATENTS 5298-04100/PM00012\

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Qiao et al.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Filed: September 14, 2000

For:

METHOD OF FORMING SELF

ALIGNED CONTACTS

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§ § Group Art Unit: 2813 Examiner: Pham, T.

Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: **box:** Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 10231, on the date indicated below:

August 26, 2002

Date

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MENDMENT; RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED APRIL 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/ Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2002 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as follows:

09/13/2002 JWILLIAI 00000004 501505 09661666 01 FC:115 <u>In the Claims:</u>

Please replace claims 1, 5, and 15 with the amended claims below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.